

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1 A system for collecting and/or adjusting and/or manipulating data from a data stream: the system comprising ;

a source of electronic data,

5 an input provided by the source of data and capable of transmission of said data to a first data processing station;

an output in communication with said data processing station;

10 an intelligent interface intermediate said input from said source of electronic data and said central processing station; wherein, the interface is capable of interrupting data transmitted between said input and the first processing station to adjust and /or compile at least a part of said data.

2 A system according to claim 1 wherein, the adjusted data is transmitted to a peripheral device in communication with the first processing station.

15 3 A system according to claim 1 wherein the data adjusted by the interface is transmitted to a secondary processing station

4 A system according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the first processing station is a point of sale terminal .

20 5 A system according to claim 4 wherein the secondary data processing station is preferably a site controller capable of communication with at least one adjusted and /or compiled and/or manipulated data stream.

6 A system according to claim 5 wherein, the secondary data processing station may be located either at the point of sale or at a remote location.

7 A system according to claim 6 wherein, the secondary processing station is capable of uploading of statistical data and down loading configuration data to a point of sale peripheral device.

8 A system according to claim 7 wherein, the secondary data processing station may perform tasks such as validation of a customer coupon or voucher.

9 A system according to claim 8 wherein, said output from said first processing station communicates with a POS printer.

10 A system according to claim 9 wherein the source of data comprises a scanner

11 A system according to claim 9 wherein the source of data comprises a weigher

12 A system according to claim 9 wherein the source of data comprises a magnetic card

13 A system according to claim 12 wherein the source of data comprises an EFTPOS scanner

14 A system according to claim 13 wherein, the source of data comprises a key board.

15 A system according to claim 14 wherein the peripheral device in communication with the first processing station is a point of sale printer.

16 A system according to claim 14 wherein the output comprises a customer display.

17 A system according to claim 14 wherein the output device comprises a lottery terminal

18 A system according to claim 14 wherein the output device comprises an EFTPOS.

19 A system according to any of the foregoing claims wherein output data may include content that is pre-loaded into the interface,

5 20 A system according to claim 9 wherein, the source of electronic data providing said input may be one of or any combination of following devices:

a) a scanner

b) keyboard

c) a magnetic card.

10 21 A system according to claim 1 wherein, the interface enables data transmitted between said input and the first processing station to be intercepted for secondary adjustment, compilation, manipulation, variation or the like.

15 22 A system according to claim 1 wherein, the interface is in communication with a remote server and the remote server is in communication with a controller which links one or more remote sites to the remote server.

23 A system for interrupting data in a data stream: the system comprising a source of electronic data,

20 an input provided by the source of data and capable of transmission of said data to a first data processing station;

an output in communication with and from said data processing station;

an interface intermediate said input from said source of electronic data and said central processing station; wherein, the interface is capable of interrupting data from said input before it reaches the processing station; whereupon said data is processed at a secondary processing station wherein the data is used for adjusting and /or compiling said data for use at the first processing station.

24 A system for adjusting data in a point of sale data stream: the system comprising ;

a source of electronic data,

a printer capable of performing at least one function responsive to said data stream;

an interface for interrupting and adjusting the data stream to enable the printer to thereby perform at least one additional print function.

25 A system for controlling the printing of data at a point of sale (POS) terminal, the system comprising:

a source of data producing a data stream;

a printer responsive to a POS computer and which performs at least one print function responsive to the data stream; the system further comprising at least an interface which is capable of adjusting and/or manipulating and/or compiling said data in said data stream thereby allowing the printer to print data from the data stream and/or said manipulated and/or adjusted data.

26 A system according to claim 25 wherein, the interface is in communication with a remote server and the remote server is in communication with a controller which links one or more remote sites to the remote server.

27 A system according to claim 26, wherein the interface is capable of adjusting said data in said data stream thereby allowing the printer to print data additional to or adjusted from data in the data stream.

28 A system according to claim 27 wherein the additional print data is based on POS information obtained by said interface directly or indirectly from the POS computer.

29 A system according to claim 28 wherein the POS computer terminal is a cash register which delivers a data stream to a receipt printer.

30 A system according to claim 29 wherein the data is manipulated, altered, augmented, amplified or otherwise adjusted via an interface which is either local to or remote from the printer.

31 A system according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein, the interface connection is wireless. According to an alternative embodiment, the interface connection is wired.

32 A system according to claim 31 wherein, there are a plurality of printers at a point of sale site and a controller at either the POS site or at a remote location thereby enabling control of multiple printers.

33 A system according to any of the foregoing claims wherein the interface comprises software embedded in a point of sale computer.

34 An electronic interface for insertion between a source of electronic data and a printer which performs at least one print function responsive to said data: wherein the interface includes means to interrupt and adjust said data stream so that the printer prints either data from said source and /or data generated by the interface.

35 A method for obtaining data from a data stream to enable collection and/or amendment of said data prior to delivery of said data to a final location;

the method comprising the steps of:

a) taking a system comprising;

a source of electronic data,

an input provided by the source of data and capable of transmission of said data
5 to a first data processing station; and

an output in communication with said data processing station;

b) placing an interface intermediate said input from said source of electronic data
and said central processing station;

c) enabling the interface to interrupt data from said input before it reaches the first
10 processing station; and

d) adjusting and /or compiling said data;

e) presenting said adjusted and/or compiled data at at least one system peripheral
device.

36 A method according to claim 35 wherein the at least one system
15 peripheral device is a remote printer.

37 A method according to claim 36 comprising the further step of
providing an interface modem connected between the data input and the first
processing station.

38 A method according to claim 37, comprising the further step of
20 providing a software interface associated with the first processing station.

39 A method according to claim 38 wherein the software communicates
with the data stream and intercepts and/ or compiles and /or adjusts and /or

manipulates the data for either storage or for subsequent delivery to an output such as a point of sale (POS) printer.

40 A method for obtaining data from a data stream to enable collection and/or amendment of said data prior to delivery of said data to a final output location;

the method comprising the steps of:

a) taking a system comprising;

a source of electronic data,

an input provided by the source of data and capable of transmission of said data to a first data processing station; and

an output in communication with said data processing station;

b) placing a software interface intermediate said input from said source of electronic data and said central processing station;

c) enabling the interface to interrupt data from said input before it reaches the first processing station; and

d) adjusting and /or compiling said data;

e) delivering said adjusted and/or compiled data at at least one system peripheral device.

41 A method according to claim 40 wherein, the at least one peripheral device is a printer which prints data which includes processed data from the data stream and said adjusted, compiled or manipulated data.

42 A method of adjusting data in a data stream transmitted between a source of data and a data printer, the method comprising the steps of ;

- a) providing a source of electronic data,
- b) providing a printer in communication with said source of data and capable of performing at least one function responsive to said data stream;
- c) providing an interface between said source of data and said printer for interrupting the data stream to enable the printer to thereby perform at least one additional print function.

43 A method for adjusting data printed by a POS printer such that the adjustment causes the printer to perform at least one function additional to its predetermined functions; the method comprising the steps of ;

- 10 a) providing a source of electronic data emanating from at least one computer terminal,
- b) providing at least one printer in communication with said computer terminal and which is capable of performing at least one function responsive to said data stream;
- 15 c) connecting an intelligent interface between said source of data and said at least one printer for interrupting the data stream to enable the printer to thereby print data from the interface and/or from the source of data.

20 44 A method according to claim 43 wherein data is communicated between a central server to a site controller, which then disseminates the data via a wireless or wired network, or both, to the intelligent interface.

45 A method according to claim 44 wherein the output data may contain content that is pre-loaded into the interface

46 A system according to claim 19 potentially unlimited number of promotional features are readily implemented by the use of the intelligent interface.

5 47 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; auction of receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material .

48 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; production of receipts containing promotional material based on product(s) purchased.

10 49 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; production of receipts containing promotional material based on time of purchase.

15 50 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; auction of receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material

51 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; production of receipts containing promotional material based on total value of transaction.

20 52 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; auction of receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material

53 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; the use of a connecting network to obtain promotional or other material in real-time for inclusion in output data.

25 54 A system according to claim 19 wherein the remote output device may perform the following function; the use of a connecting network to provide

a means to readily update promotional material stored in the intelligent interface and any associated printer, and to update the rules regarding the generation of output data.

55 A system according to claim 1 wherein the intelligent interface is capable of performing any one of the following functions:

a) Generation of discount vouchers.

b) Generation of discount vouchers with regard to product purchases.

c) Implementation of a lottery where a lottery ticket is generated in response to a transaction value exceeding a threshold.

c) Implementation of a prize-draw promotion where a stub ticket is printed and a winner is drawn from a pool of entries.

56 A system according to claim 1 wherein the intelligent interface is capable of performing a potentially unlimited number of promotional features using an intelligent interface.

57 A system according to claim 1 wherein the intelligent interface is capable of enabling any one of or any combination of the following functions:

a) production of receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material ,

b) production of receipts containing promotional material based on product(s) purchased

c) production of receipts containing promotional material based on time of purchase

d) production of receipts containing promotional material based on total value of transaction

e) the use of a connecting network to obtain promotional or other material in real-time for inclusion in output data.

5 f) the use of a connecting network to return statistical information to a network server.

g) the use of a connecting network to provide a means to readily update the promotional material stored in the intelligent interface and any associated printer, and

10 h) to update the rules regarding the generation of output data.

58 A system according to claim 1 wherein the intelligent may be implemented. as a piece of hardware external to an existing point of sale computer or as a software module within said point of sale computer (working at a driver level to intercept and redirect data), or a mixture of the two.

15 59 A system according to claim 1 wherein, the output data contains content that is pre-loaded into the interface,